

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 20, 2003

COUNTRY MUSIC LEGEND MERLE HAGGARD PERFORMS 'WELCOME HOME' CONCERT

Norfolk, VA (CNRMA) — The Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Virginian Pilot, Cox Communications and the USO presents the first in a series of homecoming programs. To welcome home the USS Truman battlegroup, the first program will feature one of the original outlaws, Country star and music legend Merle Haggard, who will celebrate the homecoming of America's troops at a free concert May 26 aboard Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek. Gates open at 5 p.m. and the concert begins at 7 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

Patrons interested in attending Merle Haggard's performance without base privileges, must enter through Gate 4 of the amphibious base, located along Shore Drive, between Diamond Springs Road and Independence Blvd. All adults must have a valid state driver's license in order to enter the base for the concert. Each guest will be issued a temporary pass for general parking.

Coolers, glass containers, video equipment or pets will not be permitted in the concert area and tailgate parties are prohibited. All bags, backpacks, blankets, chairs and any other items will be searched prior to entering concert grounds.

For additional information, please call 322-2853.